

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS STATE 232329

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 232329 ACTION COPENHAGEN GENEVA LONDON
MADRID OTTAWA PARIS 30 SEP 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 232329

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, DA, UK, SP, CA, FR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION: GROUP OF
EXPERTS MEETING TO STUDY POSSIBLE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF RADIO
REGULATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ASK ADDRESSEE POSTS TO
REPORT HOST GOVERNMENT THINKING REGARDING GROUP OF EXPERTS
MEETING TO BE HELD AT GENEVA 16 JANUARY TO 13 FEBRUARY 1976
TO STUDY POSSIBLE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF RADIO REGULATIONS.

2. BACKGROUND.

A. "RADIO REGULATIONS" CONSTITUTE RULES GOVERNING
RADIOCOMMUNICATION INTERNATIONALLY. THEY ARE ANNEXED TO
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CONVENTION (THE BASIC
INSTRUMENT OF THE ITU) AND HAVE TREATY STATUS.

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B. RADIO REGULATIONS AS A WHOLE WERE LAST REVISED AT ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE, GENEVA, 1959, AND ARE DUE FOR ANOTHER GENERAL REVISION AT GENERAL WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE (GENERAL WARC), GENEVA, 1979.

C. SPECIALIZED RADIO CONFERENCES SINCE 1959, DEVOTED TO MARITIME, AERONAUTICAL, AND SPACE RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS WERE AUTHORIZED TO REVISE RADIO REGULATIONS BUT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO SUBJECT MATTER ON AGENDA OF SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES. SUCCESSIVE REVISIONS, INCLUDING ADDITIONS, BY SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES, TOGETHER WITH INABILITY OF ANY CONFERENCE SINCE 1959 TO DEAL WITH REGULATIONS AS A WHOLE, HAVE RESULTED IN A SET OF REGULATIONS LACKING IN LOGICAL ORDER AND WITH DIMINISHED UTILITY.

D. IN DISCUSSION BELOW, TWO KEY WORDS ARE "RE-ARRANGEMENT" AND "REVISION" OF RADIO REGULATIONS. "RE-ARRANGEMENT" MEANS PLACING THE RADIO REGULATIONS IN A MORE LOGICAL ORDER WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR SUBSTANCE, WHEREAS "REVISION" CONNOTES SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS.

E. ITU IS CONVENING GROUP OF EXPERTS TO STUDY POSSIBLE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF RADIO REGULATIONS. (SIMILAR EFFORTS IN 1962-1967 PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL.) OUTPUT FROM GROUP OF EXPERTS WOULD CONSTITUTE, IN EFFECT, A SET OF DRAFT REGULATIONS INTENDED TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR MEMBER COUNTRY PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF THE REGULATIONS BY GENERAL WARC IN 1979. (UNDERLYING THINKING IS THAT RADIO REGULATIONS AGREED UPON AT 1979 WARC WILL BE MORE LOGICALLY ARRANGED IF PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF PRESENT REGULATIONS ARE BASED ON MORE LOGICAL FORMAT.)

F. BY DECISION OF ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, THE DRAFT REGULATIONS (THE RE-ARRANGED RADIO REGULATIONS PRODUCED BY THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE SUBMITTED TO AN INTERVENING SPECIALIZED RADIO CONFERENCE ON AERONAUTICAL RADIOCOMMUNICATION SCHEDULED TO CONVENE IN MARCH 1977, FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROVAL AS THE BASIS FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE 1979 GENERAL WARC.

G. (FYI: UNITED STATES IS NOT PARTY TO A RELATED BUT DISTINCT BODY OF INTERNATIONAL RADIO REGULATORY MATERIAL KNOWN AS THE ADDITIONAL RADIO REGULATIONS AND DESIRES SEE THEM KEPT SEPARATE FROM RADIO REGULATIONS IN COURSE OF RE-ARRANGEMENT EXERCISE. END FYI.)

3. ACTION REQUESTED. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO DISCUSS GROUP OF EXPERTS MEETING WITH HOST COUNTRY TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS CONCERNED. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON FOLLOWING MATTERS.

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF GROUP OF EXPERTS PROVIDES THAT "THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS AND THE LATTER SEPARATED FOR THE VARIOUS SERVICES CONCERNED..." ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ARE GENERAL REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL RADIO SERVICES. OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS ARE SERVICE REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUAL RADIO SERVICES SUCH AS AERONAUTICAL MOBILE SERVICE, AMATEUR SERVICE, MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE, ETC. QUESTION THAT ARISES EARLY IN ANY CONSIDERATION OF HOW TO DIVIDE OPERATIONAL OR SERVICE REGULATIONS IS WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE PLACED ACCORDING TO WHICH SERVICE USES THEM, OR ACCORDING TO WHICH SPECIALIZED WARC WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO REVISE THEM. WHILE MOST PROVISIONS WOULD BE SIMILARLY PLACED UNDER EITHER CRITERION, THERE EXIST A NUMBER THAT WOULD NOT. MANY OF THE LATTER APPLY IN CASE OF STATION OF ONE SERVICE WORKING INTO ANOTHER SERVICE; AS FOR EXAMPLE AIRCRAFT STATION WORKING PNT0 MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE. UNDER "SERVICE" CRITERION, SUCH A PROVISION WOULD BE PLACED IN AERONAUTICAL SECTION, WHEREAS UNDER "COMPETENCE" CRITERION IT WOULD GO IN MARITIME SECTION, SINCE MARITIME WARC WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO CHANGE IT. THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO INCLUDE PROVISION MORE THAN ONCE. HOW DOES HOST GOVERNMENT VIEW THIS MATTER? (U.S. PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT PLACEMENT SHOULD BE BY "SERVIC CRITERION; COMPETENCY QUESTIONS CAN BE HANDLED ADEQUATELY THROUGH CAREFUL PREPARATION OF FUTURE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE AGENDA BY ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

B. ALSO OF INTEREST IS NUMBER OF EXPERTS THAT HOST COUNTRY INTENDS SEND TO JANUARY/FEBRUARY MEETING. DOES HOST COUNTRY SEE MEETING SPLITTING UP INTO SUBGROUPS SOME OR ALL OF WHICH CONSTITUTED ALONG SERVICE LINES (ONE SUBGROUP FOR MARITIME MOBILE, ANOTHER FOR AERONAUTICAL MOBILE, ETC.)? (U.S. TENTATIVELY PLANNING SEND THREE OR FOUR EXPERTS WITH GENERAL, AS OPPOSED TO SINGLE-SERVICE, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DOES NOT FORESEE NEED FOR SERVICE SUBGROUPS.)

4. FOR COPENHAGEN. DANISH ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ABOVE MATTER, HAVING SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO MARITIME WARC HELD IN 1974 ON SIMPLIFYING RADIO

REGULATIONS.

5. FOR GENEVA. QUESTIONS UNDER PARA THREE FOR INFORMATION ONLY. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ENDEAVORING TO ASCERTAIN FROM SECRETARIAT WHICH COUNTRIES WILL PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUP AND HOW MANY REPRESENTATIVES THEY WILL SEND.

6. FOR LONDON. UK ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN RE-ARRANGEMENT MATTER, WITH MR. DONALD E. BAPTISTE (HOME OFFICE) TAKING LEADING ROLE. UK EXPRESSED

PREFERENCE LAST MAY FOR EXPERTS TO MEET TWICE, FIRST TO SEPARATE GENERAL REGULATIONS FROM SERVICE REGULATIONS, THEN LATER TO DO ACTUAL EDITING AND RE-ARRANGING WORK. (U.S. WOULD PREFER TO SEE JOB COMPLETED IN SINGLE SESSION THOUGH WE ARE NOT INFLEXIBLE ON THIS POINT.) EMBASSY NEED NOT RAISE MATTERS MENTIONED IN PARA THREE WITH UK ADMINISTRATION UNLESS IT WISHES TO DO SO, AS BAPTISTE AND S.E. PROBST OF OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT TELEPHONE CONTACT REGARDING THEM.

7. FOR MADRID AND PARIS. WHILE WE ARE NOT AWARE OF RECENT INDICATIONS OF SPANISH OR FRENCH ACTIVITY ON UNCLASSIFIED

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RE-ARRANGEMENT OF RADIO REGULATIONS, BOTH COUNTRIES LIKELY PLAY ACTIVE PART MEETING, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THEY ARE HIGHLY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR ROLES AS LEADERS OF SPANISH-AND FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN ITU.

8. FOR OTTAWA. RECENT INDICATIONS SUGGEST CANADA CONSIDERING ACTIVE ROLE IN RE-ARRANGEMENT MATTER.

9. ALL POSTS ENCOURAGED TO FORWARD OTHER HOST GOVERNMENT COMMENTS RELATING TO RE-ARRANGEMENT OF RADIO REGULATIONS.

10. EMBASSIES PLEASE REPEAT REPLIES TO GENEVA. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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